

## Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Pippbrook, Dorking from 7.00pm to 8.44pm

Present: Councillors Emile Aboud (Chairman), Margaret Cooksey (Vice Chairman), Tim Ashton, Lucy Botting, Stella Brooks, John Chandler, Stephen Cooksey, Clare Curran, Rosemary Dickson, David Draper, Paul Elderton, James Friend, Paula Hancock, Valerie Homewood, Mary Huggins, Chris Hunt, Roger Hurst, Howard Jones, Bridget Lewis-Carr, Simon Ling, Tim Loretto, Vivienne Michael, David Mir, John Muggerridge, Stephen Musgrove, Paul Newman, John Northcott, Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Paul Potter, David Preedy, Sarah Seed, Philippa Shimmin, Peter Stanyard, Chris Townsend and Charles Yarwood.

### 33. Minutes

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 34. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lynne Brooks, Mary Cooper, Raj Haque, Mick Longhurst, Wayne Monkman and Jatin Patel, and from Councillors Clare Curran and James Friend for late arrival.

### 35. Disclosure of Interests

None.

### 36. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman highlighted some of the events he had attended since the last meeting of the Council, including an annual New Year's party for older people run by the Lions. He also thanked Members for attending his civic event on 16<sup>th</sup> January and reported that it had raised £970 for his charity, the National Osteoporosis Society.

Further to his report at the last meeting regarding his attendance at a 10km memory walk which was raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society, the Chairman advised Members that the event had now raised over £10,000, demonstrating what could be achieved through the dedication and commitment of the organiser and participants.

Finally, the Chairman reported that he was organising a cheese and wine tasting evening on 28<sup>th</sup> February to raise funds for his charity. The event would be held at Leatherhead Tennis Club and tickets were £15. The Chairman encouraged as many Members as possible to attend.

### 37. Recommendations of Committees

- i) Standards Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – Mole Valley District Council's Independent Person Protocol and Reappointment of Independent Persons

Councillor Charles Yarwood, Chairman of the Standards Committee, introduced the item and proposed the recommendation of the Committee as set out on page 2 of the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the three Independent Persons be reappointed for a period of four years from the Annual Council meeting in May 2015.

- ii) Audit Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – Treasury Management – Annual Report and Prudential Indicators 2013/14

Councillor Stella Brooks, Chairman of the Audit Committee, introduced the item and proposed the recommendations of the Committee as set out on page 3 of the agenda. In response to a question in respect of paragraph 4.29 of the report and the percentage of interest paid at fixed rates and variable rates, the Chairman agreed that clarification of this paragraph would be included in the Council minutes. A separate issue was raised on the Capital Expenditure table at paragraph 4.3 of the report as to the difference between the 2014/15 Original and 2014/15 Updated Programme and it was agreed that clarification in respect of this point would also be included in the minutes. [See post meeting note below.]

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) To note that the Audit Committee received the Treasury Management Mid Year Monitoring Report 2014/15 for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- (2) That the Treasury Management Mid Year Monitoring Report 2014/15 be approved.

[Post meeting note: Paragraph 4.29 - The actual performance, as stated in paragraph 4.29, should have been 76% interest paid at fixed rate and 24% at variable rate. These compare to upper limits, as stated in paragraph 4.28, of 100% and 35% respectively. Paragraph 4.3 - The main reason is that the latter includes amounts unspent and carried forward from 2013/14, the prime items being Emergency Accommodation (£0.8m), Pippbrook Remedial Works (£0.7m) and Minor Works Projects (£0.5m).]

**38. Airports Commission – Consultation on Shortlisted Runway Schemes**

The Council considered the report set out at pages 23 to 87 of the agenda. The Executive Member for Planning introduced the report and advised that the report was before Council for debate prior to consideration and decision by the Executive on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. He reported that the Aviation Working Group had considered the Airports Commission's proposals and the four recommendations contained in the report to the Executive reflected the Working Group's unanimous views. These recommendations were encapsulated in the draft formal response to the consultation appended to the draft executive report. The Executive Member thanked the members of the Working Group and the supporting officers for their work on developing the draft response to the Airports Commission consultation.

The Council received a short presentation from Guy Davies, Planning Policy Officer, who outlined each of the Airport Commission's proposals and their implications for Mole Valley, and the rationale for the proposed consultation response.

The motion that the Council recommend to the Executive that it responds to the Commission's consultation on the basis of the recommendations set out in the draft Executive report at page 27 was moved by Councillor John Northcott and seconded by Councillor Chris Townsend.

Councillor David Preedy moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Stella Brooks:

Amend recommendation (1) to read 'That the Council is opposed to any additional runway in the South East of England and has additional specific reasons for opposing a second runway at Gatwick airport.'

Delete recommendation (2).

Recommendations (3) and (4) to remain as detailed in the Executive report, but to be renumbered to (2) and (3) respectively.

The Council debated the amendment proposed by Councillor Preedy. Those in favour noted that the amendment would enable the Council to express its opposition to additional runways at both Heathrow and Gatwick. Additional runways at either airport would have a serious environmental impact on the South East, concentrate economic development in the area to the detriment of the remainder of the UK and have a negative impact on surface transport throughout the area. It was noted that the north and west of the District did suffer from aircraft noise from Heathrow.

Members of the Aviation Working Group advised that, although the possibility of objecting to any additional runway had been raised at the Working Group, the Airports Commission was consulting on three shortlisted runway schemes and therefore the Council must submit its views in respect of the three schemes.

The motion to amend the recommendations was accordingly put to the vote and LOST by 21 votes to 11.

The Council debated the motion in full. Members supported opposition to a second runway at Gatwick on the grounds of its adverse impact on the environment, including flooding and air quality, increased noise, increased development and surface traffic congestion. Members considered that any benefits of an additional runway were greatly outweighed by these disadvantages.

Members were also of the view that, in the event that the Airports Commission recommended a second runway at Gatwick, an enhanced package of mitigation and compensation measures should be sought to minimise the impact on Mole Valley residents.

The impact of an additional runway at Gatwick on the new housing planned in Crawley and whether this should be included in the response was raised. The Executive Member confirmed that the response to question 5 included the Council's views on housing growth and distribution, and the response was confined largely to the impacts of the proposals on Mole Valley. However, he undertook to ask officers to consider this point.

The Council noted that the resilience of the transport links to Gatwick was a matter for concern and the Executive Member undertook to strengthen the response to address this.

In accordance with Standing Order 26.8 the Council agreed that each part of the motion should be put to the vote separately.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Executive be recommended to respond to the Commission's consultation on the basis of the recommendations set out in the draft report as follows:

- (1) That the Council opposes a second runway at Gatwick airport.
- (2) That the Council raises no objection to a north west runway or extended runway at Heathrow airport.
- (3) That the Airports Commission be urged to recommend that capacity improvements in transport networks should meet background and airport demand in full as a condition of any airport expansion.
- (4) In the event that the Airports Commission recommends a second runway at Gatwick, that the Council work in partnership with the operator, other authorities and infrastructure providers to secure an enhanced package of mitigation and compensation measures as part of a comprehensive plan for the area.

### **39. Leader's Statement**

As it was the first meeting of the Council in the New Year, the Leader wished all Members across the chamber his best wishes for 2015.

He reported on the tremendous Christmas celebrations of Dorking Gala night and Leatherhead Christmas pageants organised by Mole Valley District Council officers, which had been supported by the Council's free Christmas parking offer and enjoyed by so many residents, and the spectacular pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, at Dorking Halls. He expressed his relief that the District's communities had not suffered the same dreadful experiences of flooding as on Christmas Eve in 2013.

The Leader advised that before Christmas he had written to both the Secretary of State for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Communities and Local Government urging that they extend the deadline for applying for a Repair and Renew Grant. His hope was that an extension to the scheme would help those residents who were still repairing their homes following the floods to apply to the scheme in order to improve the flood resilience of their properties. He was pleased to confirm that, following requests from the County Council, himself, and other local authorities within Surrey, DEFRA ministers had agreed an extension to the deadline for reimbursement of claims to the repair and renew grant. As a result Surrey County Council, who administered the scheme, had announced that the deadline for new applications was now 20th March 2015. All work, whether from an existing claim or a new one must then be completed and final invoices submitted by the end of May 2015. Mole Valley District Council would now be writing to all those residents who were affected last winter and who had not yet made an application, to draw their attention to this extension.

At the last meeting of the Council the Leader had advised that the Democratic Services Team was progressing well with the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration. The new Electoral Register for 2015 had been published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and the percentage of households on the electoral register had increased from last year's figure of 97% to 98.6%, which was a tremendous achievement. The Team was currently undertaking a further mini-canvass to ensure that the register was as up to date as it could possibly be ready for the May 2015 elections.

Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) had been supporting an East Surrey initiative, to provide guidance to young people as they looked towards employment. A website, called 'World of Work', had been designed by students, working with local businesses. The site provided information on applying for jobs, managing money, what employers were looking for and numerous other areas. The Ashcombe School had been very involved in the project and it was hoped that this would be a valuable tool for all schools and young people. The site would be launched in early February and further details would be shared with Members at that time. This initiative complemented the work already done to support young people into employment through MVDC's Young Worker, Apprenticeship and Work Experience schemes.

Finally, the Leader commented that as ever he was always impressed by how much Mole Valley, as a small council, achieved by being progressive and forward-thinking, and he thanked Members and officers for the hard work that ensured that MVDC continued to deliver top-class services to its residents.

### **40. Reports of Executive Members**

#### Councillor James Friend – Executive Member for Wellbeing

The Executive Member updated Council on mental health training. MVDC had been delivering mental health awareness training for managers over the last six months or so with a focus on them being able to recognise and support mental health issues that

might be presenting within their teams and in their dealings with customers. Forty members of staff from across the organisation had received this training. The next steps were that officers were in conversation with the training provider on specific compulsory training for frontline staff, specifically to support them in understanding how to identify potential indicators of mental health concerns amongst residents and service users that they come into contact with and how to interact appropriately with them. It was anticipated that this training would take place in early March and would include about 100 employees of MVDC but contracted out services would also be engaged including the Leisure providers and waste contractors. An e-learning course would also be made available on the new learning portal to catch new employees as part of induction for relevant posts ahead of them receiving the more formal training above.

In the last year Mole Valley had hosted a Mental Health Awareness event at Leatherhead Leisure Centre consisting of a brief theatrical production from a company called Acting Out and staff had been encouraged to attend. The Corporate Head of Service was in conversation with Time To Change Surrey about hosting another such event in the coming year to complement the more formal programme of training. Councillor Friend reported that where particular roles had been identified within their business need to have a heightened awareness of issues that might be common to their customers, then training had been provided. For example, certain of the Housing team have undergone mental health and drug and alcohol awareness training in the past though what was now being looked at was a more consistent approach across the organisation for all front line staff. The Executive Member thanked the officer team for raising the profile of mental health issues within the authority.

The Executive Member advised that MVDC continued to work closely with health service colleagues on a range of wellbeing activities and he was pleased to announce the launch this month of the Mole Valley Exercise on Referral scheme. This would allow GPs and other health professionals to prescribe physical activity for their patients at both Leatherhead Leisure Centre and Dorking Sports Centre where an individual programme would be created and monitored by personal instructors. A booklet and leaflet on the scheme had been tabled for Members' information.

To ease winter pressures a Boiler Repair or Replacement Scheme was being supported by MVDC along with neighbouring Districts and Boroughs and the Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group in partnership with Action Surrey. The Council was also distributing Winter Warmth Packs to its most vulnerable residents.

The Executive Member drew attention to the new brochure of the services MVDC provided to its older and more vulnerable residents which helpfully included listings of other statutory and voluntary sector services across the District, and which had been tabled for Members. This was a useful point of reference and it would be available across GP's practices and in many other community locations. Councillor Friend asked Members to let the Community Services Team know if they would like further copies, if there were other services that they would like to see in the brochure, or if they were aware of any other community locations which would benefit from a supply of the brochures.

#### Councillor Simon Ling – Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Services

The Executive Member was pleased to report that, in accordance with the Code of Transparency, details of MVDC's spending over £500 together with details of contracts let or out to tender had been published on the Council website by 31<sup>st</sup> December. Further information would be published in February 2015.

The Council's proposed budget for 2015/16 had been published on the Scrutiny Committee agenda and would be considered by that Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January; the Executive on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Councillor Ling expressed his gratitude to everyone, approximately 450 people, who took the time to complete and return the consultation on the new Corporate Strategy for 2015 onwards. Responses were being evaluated and the findings would be included in the report to the Council meeting in March.

New Payment Kiosks would soon be installed in Pippbrook Reception and the Leatherhead Helpshop which would ensure customers were able to continue to make payments directly at the Council's offices.

The Executive Member advised that the availability of the website continued to remain very high at just under 98.5% for the year to date. It was pleasing to note, following the relaunch of the website, that over 20% of users were choosing to connect using mobile technologies. Even more pleasing was the news that Sitemore, who assess the usability of websites, had ranked the Council's website 14<sup>th</sup> out of 430 and it was the most highly ranked in the whole of Surrey.

Councillor Ling thanked the ICT Officers who worked on the website on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December when an external telecom provider's fault meant that that Council website could not be accessed.

On the matter of Council Tax, Members were informed that the number of reminders and final notices issued in respect of unpaid Council Tax continued to fall, whilst the collection rate at 31<sup>st</sup> December stood at 88.4%, exactly the same figure as the same time last year. It was anticipated that the target of 99% collection would be reached by the end of March 2015. The actual amount collected in respect of all years, net of refunds, was £55,324,613.

Business rate collection at the end of December 2014 was 87.8% compared to last year when the figure was 89.3%. As Members had been previously advised, this was largely due to the number of businesses who had taken the option to pay their rates over twelve instalments rather than the normal ten. As with council tax this reduced the amount collectable April to January but increased the amount due to be collected in February and March. The current net collectable debit for business rates stood at £37,544,707.

#### Councillor Vivienne Michael – Executive Member for Community Engagement and Resident Services

The Executive Member reported that the winter edition of MV Magazine had been issued in electronic and hard copy in December. It included useful information for residents on the range of services MVDC provided and the projects being delivered for their benefit. It was distributed to about 8000 residents on the email distribution list and 2,000 hard copies were made available from Pippbrook, the HelpShop, libraries, Dorking Halls, and the Leatherhead and Dorking sports centres.

Councillor Michael was delighted to confirm the latest winners of the Above and Beyond award which recognised officers who have delivered exemplary outcomes for our residents and communities, and congratulated and thanked the officers for their efforts. These awards reflected the importance the Council placed on excellent customer service. Awards had been presented to: Benita Potts (Housing); Rod Shaw (Planning Policy); Jane Smith (Planning Policy) and Tony Wynn (Parks. Members were reminded that nominations could be made at any time of year by Councillors, officers and members of the public.

Councillor Michael reiterated Councillor Ling's comments regarding the website, particularly the excellent result in the quarterly rankings.

The Executive Member advised that MVDC continued to work hard to prevent homelessness in the District and to help households who found themselves in that situation to find suitable accommodation. She was pleased to announce that 7 new

emergency accommodation units had been added to the Council's stock to reduce its use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Mount Green Housing Association had also made three units available to the authority on a temporary basis. At the end of December six Mole Valley households were in bed and breakfast. None of these were families who had been there for more than six weeks and this had been the case since October. The Council's Homelessness Strategy would be considered at Executive in February, following debate at the Scrutiny Committee, and this included a commitment to meeting National Best Practice Standards across all MVDC's activity with homeless households, whether they be families, single or young people.

Members were informed that MVDC had been able to assist the North Downs Primary School in Brockham with sandbags in the previous week when surface water flooding threatened the school, support which was greatly appreciated. Members had all been briefed of the possible inclement weather and local Members were advised of the support being provided to the school, as well as being actively involved in the community's response to the conditions. In addition, a quick reference guide to help Members with relevant contacts for flooding issues and emergencies had been published on MOSS.

Finally, the Executive Member referred to the invitation sent to all Members to the Youth Showcase at Dorking Halls on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Members were encouraged to attend what promised to be another entertaining evening showcasing the best talent from across the District.

#### Councillor Paul Newman – Executive Member for Environment

The Executive Member reported that the Environmental Health team were continuing to work on a new Government funded project to help develop new licensing processes to streamline and simplify the licensing system for local businesses. The result would be better for local businesses and cheaper for the Council.

Councillor Newman highlighted that MVDC's partnership work in Regulatory Services had recently been promoted by the District Council Network as a best practice case study. The study demonstrated how partnership working with other District Council Environmental Health services and the County Trading Standards service was benefiting residents, local businesses and reducing costs.

The Executive Member outlined MVDC's work on litter. He acknowledged that the majority of residents loved and respected the beauty of our towns, villages and rural areas. Sadly a tiny minority continued to undermine this beauty by littering. Residents had told the Council that they wanted it to put out a strong message that littering in Mole Valley was not acceptable. Therefore, work continued with Surrey County Council on our litter campaign. Some highlights of the campaign included an arts project with Leatherhead schools and youth groups to promote the anti-litter message and a schools poster campaign which was being run in association with Southern Railways. The message was clear: littering in Mole Valley would not be tolerated.

MVDC's work with the Surrey Waste Partnership continued to go well. Following extensive public consultation last year, the Partnership had drafted an updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which supported its objectives to make recycling as easy as possible for residents whilst making it as cost effective as possible. An important plank of the strategy to deliver value for money and a leading recycling service was the development of a Joint Waste Collection contract. This was also continuing to progress well.

The Environmental Services team continued to deliver a leading waste and recycling service which enabled residents to recycle most of their domestic waste. The commitment of residents to recycling and the team's efforts to promote the service continued to ensure MVDC remained one of the top recyclers in Surrey and nationally. Councillor Newman was pleased to confirm that in December residents broke the record

for the most dry recycling collected in any one month. They put out 1070 tonnes of mixed paper, card, plastics, glass, foil and cans for collection by the authority's crews. The Executive Member thanked residents and the Environmental Services team for achieving this fantastic milestone.

#### Councillor John Northcott – Executive Member for Planning

The Executive Member reported that he had been delighted to attend the launch of the project to transform Leatherhead for which the Planning Policy team had provided support. This was an exciting project for the Council and an announcement on the appointment of the preferred Masterplanner was imminent. The initial meetings of the Transform Leatherhead member and community reference group had taken place in a good atmosphere and the community and stakeholder consultation process would soon be agreed and commenced.

Following the decision of the Executive in December 2014 to terminate work on the Housing and Traveller Sites Plan, a timetable and work programme for the preparation of a new Local Plan for Mole Valley was currently being considered, and a report would be presented to the meeting of the Planning Policy Working Group on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Councillor Northcott advised that the Mayor of London's forthcoming review of the London Plan would assess how the capital could accommodate its future housing and development needs. As this could have implications for Mole Valley, the Executive Member would ensure that Mole Valley's voice was heard during the forthcoming months as the debate unfolded.

The Executive Member referred to the work of the Aviation Working Group in the context of the previous discussion on the Airports Commission consultation. He advised that what the Airports Commission recommended and what the Government eventually decided could have a significant impact on the emerging new Local Plan.

The Executive Member reported that the Government had introduced a ten unit threshold for s106 affordable housing obligations or five units in designated rural areas. This could have a serious impact on the ability to provide affordable homes in the District, and MVDC would be supporting the Local Government Association in its efforts to reverse the changes.

A number of recent town centre events had been successful, including festive and seasonal events in Dorking and Leatherhead. MVDC would be hosting 'Digital High Street Skills' workshops over the coming months and had jointly hosted a business event 'Doing Business with Your Council' at Dorking Halls. MVDC had also sponsored the 'Best Start up Business Award' at the Leatherhead Business Awards organised by the Chamber of Commerce.

Members were advised that the environmental enhancement of West Street in Dorking was continuing and plans for the enhancement of Church Street in Leatherhead were the subject of ongoing consultation.

Planning application numbers were continuing to increase with figures for the last calendar year showing a 9% increase over the previous year. Councillor Northcott advised that this would be monitored closely over the coming months.

Finally, the Executive Member was pleased to note that two members of the Planning Department, Rod Shaw and Jane Smith, had achieved well merited awards for going beyond the call of duty, and offered his congratulations to them both.

## Councillor Charles Yarwood – Executive Member for Assets

The Executive Member advised that the free parking before Christmas had been very well received by both traders and shoppers. As well as offering free parking on the three Saturday afternoons leading up to Christmas, free after three' parking was also offered to each town and village with pay and display parking to support specific events and to encourage residents and visitors to shop in the District's towns and villages.

Work on preparing for the redevelopment of the Meadowbank Football Ground had commenced, with detailed plans being worked up. The new football facility, café for the park and other sports/leisure facilities would be something the community would be proud of. Grants were being applied for to help reduce the call on the Councils budget.

The works required on the refurbishment of Pippbrook were being refined and care was being taken to ensure that the phasing of the works ensured that the business of the Council could continue effectively.

Further background work on Lower Shott / Grove Corner, Bookham was being undertaken in conjunction with Bookham Vanguard. More details were being sought before the project was brought to the Executive.

Councillor Yarwood reported that the first Winter Beer Festival at Dorking Halls had gone very well in December and would provide a good foundation for organising a bigger and better event in 2015. The event was organised at quite short notice, but was well received and made a modest profit for both MVDC and its partners, Surrey Craft Beer. The two day event generated over £10,000 in revenue, including £3,000 in sponsorship and advertising.

This year's pantomime at Dorking Halls, Jack and the Beanstalk, had sold very well, grossing around £87,000 in ticket sales, an increase of 18% compared to last year's production. Sales of confectionary over the 8 period were over £10,000.

Films and event screenings in the week up to Christmas generated over £16,000, which was the highest weekly income since 2012 (when the Halls had the record breaking James Bond film, Skyfall). This was particularly good considering it was a six day week due to Christmas Day. The Christmas line-up of films was one the strongest for some time and cinema income had been higher than average since mid November. This was much needed due to a very poor spring and summer for cinema. Despite this solid improvement, Councillor Yarwood advised that it may be too late to completely make up for the long period of weak film attendances in the first half of the year.

The new cinema screen in the Grand Hall was now fully operational and along with changes to the sound system, had made that space into a really excellent cinema facility for up to 600 people.

Furniture in the café at Dorking Halls had now been replaced with smart new chairs, sofas and stools. The old sofas and the best of the existing chairs had been moved into the Showbar, where there was now also a semi-permanent play area for young children.

### **41. Questions to Members of the Executive**

(1) The following question was submitted by Councillor Preedy

“Councillors will know that Headley Court is not just a major employer in our area, but is also rightly acknowledged as a world-class centre of expertise. Last February I alerted this Council to the risk of the loss of this expertise if the MoD were to decide to close Headley Court. In July 2014, following the MoD's decision, this Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for urgent discussions with interested parties to assess possible alternative uses which retain a centre of expertise at Headley Court, based on

the specialist facilities on the site and any civilian staff who would prefer not to relocate. On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, the MP for Mole Valley announced on the radio that he has initiated discussions with “senior NHS Officials” with a view to assessing the potential for the NHS (perhaps in conjunction with private operators) to maintain a rehabilitation service at Headley Court once the military facility has left. Has the Council, as the relevant planning authority, been invited to participate in the current round of discussions?”

Councillor Townsend responded as follows:

I certainly agree with Councillor Preedy that the future of Headley Court is of great interest to the Council and the communities associated with the facility. In March last year I wrote to the Secretary of State for Defence as well as the local MPs to show my interest and concern for the future of the Defence Military Rehabilitation Centre as well as the Headley Court estate itself. Since then, the Chief Executive and I have continued to liaise with the current Commanding Officer of the DMRC on the matter. We have also met with the Chair of the Headley Court Trust who own the site to ascertain what their intentions for the estate might be and spoken to Headley Parish Council, who naturally have an interest in this matter. We would not like to see the loss of any medical expertise or the employment currently sited at Headley Court, not to mention the significant role the centre has for our local communities. The Chief Executive nor I have been invited or informed of any discussions with NHS officials and we would certainly expect to be involved at the appropriate time should these discussions take place.

Councillor Preedy asked the following supplementary question:

“I wonder if you could agree with me that, given the tenor of the two motions passed by the Council last year, now is an appropriate time for this Council to be involved in holding such discussions?”

Councillor Townsend advised that he and the Chief Executive would pursue the matter with some haste to ensure the Council was involved in any discussions.

(2) The following question was submitted by Councillor Preedy

“In view of the growing demand for electric cars and the environmental benefits they offer, commercial centres are increasingly ensuring that they provide car-charging points. How many publicly-available charging points are there in Mole Valley for electric cars and how does this compare with neighbouring council areas?”

Councillor Newman responded as follows:

Electric cars and charging points do play a part in creating a more sustainable transport system and with that in mind Members and officers continue to listen to our communities and local businesses to ascertain the potential demand for charging points in our towns and villages. So far, the demand does not appear to be significant but officers have been aware of some interest particularly in the Ashtead area. We are currently undertaking a survey to see if a point can be installed at the Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall Car Park.

There is not a single list of charging points for the whole country so it is not possible to do an accurate comparison with neighbouring areas, but Members may wish to visit the National Charge Point Registry on-line. The Registry lists 4 sites in Mole Valley, 4 in Elmbridge, 6 in Epsom and Ewell and 2 each in Guildford, Reigate and Banstead, and Waverley. The four in Mole Valley are situated at Dorking Main Railway Station. If Members or residents would like to inform us of existing or potential demand for charging points, we would encourage them to let us know by contacting our Strategic Parking and Parks Manager, Mr Paul Anderson so we can continue to monitor and respond to demand.

Councillor Preedy asked the following supplementary question:

“The on-line map which I looked at listed 7591 charging points in the UK, including Horsham, Crawley, Redhill, Reigate, Banstead, Epsom, Woking and Guildford but none in Mole Valley, so I wonder whether the Council can liaise with these mapping organisations to make sure that the facilities in our area do get publicity because it is important. If people don't know they're here we don't get any of the benefits of them.”

Councillor Newman undertook to ensure this was looked into.

## **42. Motions**

### **Motion 5/2014**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cooksey and seconded by Councillor David Draper:

“Council notes:

- a) the strong and enthusiastic participation shown by the people of Scotland in a remarkable democratic process leading to the Referendum on 18 September;
- b) the resulting increased discussion on the devolution of powers from central government in Westminster and Whitehall.

Council believes:

- I. That power should be devolved to the people in all parts of the United Kingdom;
- II. That England is currently ruled over by an over-centralised state that fails to reflect localities and regions;
- III. That concentrating more power to English MPs in Westminster is not the only answer for English devolution and that passing power down to the local areas of England is essential.

Council therefore calls for:

Mole Valley's MPs, the Leader of the Council and the Executive to lobby for urgent major devolution of power, including tax raising and spending, from central government to the regions, counties, boroughs and districts and cities of England.

And that such lobbying should emphasise:

that the devolution of powers and finance to English councils be carried out in ways that enhance and strengthen local democratic bodies. This must include agreement that it shall be for local people and communities to decide their form of democratic leadership without having a specific model imposed (for example directly elected Mayors) in return for more powers;

a recognition that English devolution must include both large cities and county areas, as the many councils not within city regions must also gain greater powers and finance in order to build successful and prosperous futures.”

This motion had previously been referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration. That Committee had not considered the motion and it had been referred back to Council.

In accordance with Standing Order 9.6 a motion that the Council should deal with motion 5/2014 at the meeting was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cooksey and seconded by Councillor Draper. This motion failed to secure a majority of those Members present, so motion 5/2014 was referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration

**RESOLVED:** That motion 5/2014 be referred to Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

.....  
Chairman

.....Date